

Local Foods Team
April 20, 2010
5:30 PM

Members Present: Kate Newkirk, Cindy Owing, Nancy Emery, Angela Bouchard, Stu Silverstein, Mary Dunn, Michael Donihue, Laura Patterson, Ellen Paul, Matt Skehan, Nate Rudy, Susan MacKenzie, Ashley Alden, Robert Bragdon, Meg Richards, Linda Woods

1. The Moor St. Garden
 - Is ready thanks to Michael Donahue, Ellen Paul, & Matt Skehan
 - On Wednesday (21), Stu is going to Fedco for amendments
 - Stu, Ellen, Robert, & Meg will dig in the soil amendments Wednesday (21) at 11:00. They will meet at Moor St.
 - Planning to add directly to beds
 - Ready for gardening on Thursday
 - Preference given to people in South End for remaining plots
 - Hasn't been publicized yet because nothing was there. Now is the time for publicity.
 - Matt: have Kim announce it at a SENA meeting
2. North St Garden
 - All plots are reserved.
 - Homeless Shelter's plot needs a care taker. Stu will talk to the administration of the shelter. Ellen will get seeds for the shelter if necessary.
3. Next year's garden
 - Important to have support in various neighborhoods, so as to expand
 - Kate: wants to expand community gardens to Winslow/ doing site prep this year
 - Focusing on importance of increasing community gardens
4. garden fence
 - not just for aesthetics, but to mark off where the garden is
 - Nate has taken over the responsibility of finding a fence & has called a few local vendors.
 - Estimated cost: \$1000 to \$1300 for space-picket fence/ per site for the material & does not for installation
 - So far, the response has been negative to luke warm (from Triple-P fencing).
 - Contacted Home Depot, but their process is complicated
 - Linda will send letterhead to Cindy.

- Stu will talk to Chuck Lakin, a woodworker. He might have a suggestion.
- Ellen suggests Robert Johnson
- Shrubbery or stone might work. Kate suggested what might be left after Fedco's sale.
- Mary suggested Craigslist or Uncle Henry's
- Stu: cedar mill in Pittsfield or Embden
- Cindy & Nate will continue on this project.

5. finances/ fundraising

- have about \$800 in account
- Matt: might want another shed for Moor St. The money could be used for that. The first one cost about \$200 to build. He thinks this is something needed.

6. Grand Opening/Annual Opening Celebration

- Does there need to be one at both gardens?
- Gardens are about community, so an opening is important to bring people together. If there is no celebration, people might not connect with others who have gardens. Stu thinks it is important.
- Last year's had food, music, a tour, & workshops
- Laura: would like to have a weed walk/ identification of herbal & medicinal uses/ Maybe workshops could be held every 2 weeks
- Matt: Grand Opening at Moor St? & annual opening at each?
- Maybe there is not enough energy for two, so focus on Moor St. this year unless someone wants to organize one for North St.
- Will the pizza oven be available? Doubtful
- Meg will lead the planning for the Grand Opening at Moor St.
- Nate: maybe a Harvest Celebration at North St.?
- Ellen wonders if there are Garden Team meetings in the summer. Cindy: There were meetings in the garden last year. Park on Grove St. would be appropriate location for meetings.
- It was decided to have one meeting before the Grand Opening.
- Food is crucial. Maybe a hot dog cooker? Gifford's? South End Café? Bakery? Variety store? South End Teen Center? Uncle Dean's?
- Addition from Linda while rereading these notes: I've heard that the owner of the cleaners in the South End is a nice guy. Might he make a donation?
- Charlie Poulin woodworker at Ware Butler is active in South End Association. Stu will talk to him.
- Last year it was during the film festival. It was decided to have the opening on **July 18 from 12 to 2.**
- Laura: IMPORTANT that we serve no bottled water. She used crocks of lemonade & ice tea last year.

7. Helping People with Gardens

- Stu distributed a paper copy of the guidelines. An electronic version exists. Matt: This will serve as a welcome to new gardeners.
- The Yahoo Garden Group still exists.
- Cindy: The people who want help need to reach out because others are available.
- The Education Team is holding a food & gardening series. The next one is April 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Barrels. Title: "Vegetable Gardening for Success." It deals with how to avoid plant disease (including late blight), insects, and weeds. Caragh Fitzgerald, Kennebec County Extension Agent, is leading this class. Registration is encouraged. 1-800-287-1781/ 622-7546/ regkenn@umext.maine.edu
- If anyone has extra seeds, leave them in the shed in a rodent-proof container at North St.
- Ellen is getting seeds & soil amendments from Fedco. Nate is contacting Johnny's.
- Stu bought a lock for the shed.

The next meeting will be **June 1, Tuesday at 5:30 at Moor St. Garden.** Bring a chair and sunshine. ☺